Introduced by Assembly Member Bocanegra

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Section 60901 of the Education Code, relating to pupil attendance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1866, as introduced, Bocanegra. Pupil attendance: California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.

(1) Existing law establishes the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System, as provided. Existing law requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office, contingent upon the receipt of federal funds, to prepare the system to include data on pupil attendance, as specified. Existing law requires the system to support local educational agencies in their efforts to identify and support pupils at risk of dropping out and be capable of issuing periodic reports to local educational agencies that include district, school, class, and individual pupil reports on the rates of absence and chronic absentees, as defined.

This bill would, among other things, instead require the State Department of Education to enhance the system, as provided. The bill would require the periodic reports to local educational agencies to also include reports on the rates of absence, rates of chronic absenteeism and the number of chronic absentees, rates of truancy and the number of truants, rates of habitual truancy and the number of habitual truants, and rates of chronic truancy and the number of chronic truants. The bill would revise the definition of "chronic absentee" and establish a

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definition for "rates of absence". The bill would delete the federal funding requirement on these provisions.

(2) Existing law, once the system is prepared to accept data on a quarterly rate of pupil attendance, authorizes a local educational agency to submit data to the State Department of Education on a quarterly rate of pupil attendance, and other indicators as identified by the department.

This bill would, once the system is enhanced to accept data on pupil attendance, require a local educational agency to submit specified data, and other indicators identified by the department, to the department at least 4 times per school year on dates to be determined by the department. By imposing additional duties on local educational agencies, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

- (3) This bill would also make conforming and nonsubstantive changes.
- (4) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

(5) This bill would become operative only if legislation is enacted in the 2013–14 Regular Session that establishes an annual report on elementary school truancy and chronic absenteeism, that takes effect on or before January 1, 2015.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 60901 of the Education Code is amended 2 to read:
- 3 60901. (a) Contingent upon the receipt of federal funds for
- 4 this purpose, the The department, in consultation with the
- 5 Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office, shall
- 6 prepare enhance the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement
- 7 Data System established pursuant to Section 60900 to include data 8 on a quarterly rate of pupil attendance. Preparation The
- 9 *enhancement* shall include all of the following:
- 10 (1) The addition of fields to facilitate the transfer of data.

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(2) System development activities including any business rules and definitions that would be needed to improve the quality and consistency of the data.

- (3) Processes for the transfer of data from local educational agencies.
- (4) Consultation with organizations representing school, *school* district, and county *office* of education administrators, classified and certified staff, and parents in order to develop the criteria and frequency of reports on pupil attendance data and other indicators as may be submitted by local educational agencies.
- (b) The system shall support local educational agencies in their efforts to identify and support pupils at risk of dropping out and shall be capable of issuing to local educational agencies periodic reports that include, but may not be limited to, district, school, class, and individual pupil reports—on both of the following: for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 12, inclusive, regarding:
 - (1) Rates of absence.

- (2) Chronic Rates of chronic absenteeism and the number of chronic absentees.
- (3) Rates of truancy and the number of truants, as defined in Section 48260.
- (4) Rates of habitual truancy and the number of habitual truants, as defined in Section 48262.
- (5) Rates of chronic truancy and the number of chronic truants, as defined in Section 48263.6.
- (c) (1) For purposes of this-section, section and subdivision (d) of Section 52060, "chronic absentee" means refers to a pupil who is absent on 10 percent or more of the schooldays in the school year when the total number of days a pupil is absent is divided by the total number of days the pupil is enrolled and school was actually taught in the regular day schools of the district, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays. subject to compulsory full-time education or compulsory continuation education and who is absent for 10 percent or more of the school days in a school year, as measured from the date of enrollment to the date that the data is submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System.
- (2) For purposes of this section, "rates of absence" means the following, to be calculated as of the date that a local educational

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1 agency submits the reports required pursuant to subdivision (e), 2 with respect to each individualized pupil record:

- (A) The number of school days enrolled.
- (B) The number of school days on which the pupil had an unexcused absence of more than 30 minutes but less than a full day.
- (C) The number of school days on which the pupil had a full day of unexcused absence.
- (D) The number of school days on which the pupil had a full day of excused absence.
- (E) Whether the pupil has been designated a habitual truant, as defined in Section 48262.

(2)

- (3) Once available, chronic absentee rates the data listed in subdivision (b) shall be incorporated into the annual report on dropouts required pursuant to Section 48070.6. 48070.6 and the annual report on elementary school truancy and chronic absenteeism required pursuant to Section 48070.7.
- (d) It is the intent of the Legislature to support the development of early warning systems to enable the identification and support of individual pupils who are at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school. The systems shall encompass the following characteristics:
- (1) The utilization of highly predictive indicators, including attendance, course grades or completion, performance on assessments of pupil achievement, suspensions, and expulsions.
- (2) A thorough validation process to ensure the predictive reliability of the systems.
- (3) Periodic reports that inform principals, teachers, and parents in a manner that enables timely identification and support of individual pupils who are at risk of academic failure or dropping out
- (e) When Once the system established pursuant to Section 60900 is prepared enhanced to accept data on a quarterly rate of pupil attendance, a local educational agency may shall submit the data specified in subdivision (b), and other indicators as identified by the department, to the department—on a quarterly rate of pupil attendance and other indicators as identified by the department. at least four times per school year, on dates to be determined by the department. It is the intent of the Legislature that schools identified

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on the list of persistently lowest-achieving schools will fully utilize the early warning systems described in subdivision (d).

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- (f) A local educational agency that reports attendance data for pupils to the system established pursuant to Section 60900 may request, and the department shall provide, the early warning report described in subdivision (d) up to four times each school year.
- (g) The department shall notify local educational agencies that reporting pupil attendance and chronic absentee data pursuant to this section is voluntary. The notice shall include a description of the benefits of reporting pupil attendance and chronic absentee data in fostering the development of effective supports and interventions for at-risk pupils.
- (h) This section shall not be implemented unless federal funds are appropriated specifically for the purposes of this section.
- SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- SEC. 3. This act shall become operative only if legislation is enacted in the 2013–14 Regular Session that establishes an annual report on elementary school truancy and chronic absenteeism that takes effect on or before January 1, 2015.